

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 24-26 without prejudice. Please add claims 27-31. A copy of all pending claims and a status of the claims is provided below.

1. (original) A stage assembly comprising:

a first motor that includes a first part and a second part, the first motor producing a first force;

a second motor that includes a first part and a second part, the second motor producing a second force;

a base to which the first part of the first motor is attached;

a stage to which is attached the second part of the first motor and the second part of the second motor, the stage moving relative to the base by at least one of the first force and the second force; and

a second stage to which the first part of the second motor is attached; wherein the base and the second stage are different respective bodies.

2. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first part of the first motor and the second part of the first motor interacts with each other to produce the first force and the first part of the second motor and the second part of the second motor interact with each other to produce the second force.

3. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 1, including (a) two of the first parts of the first motor; (b) two of the first parts of the second motor; or (c) two first parts of the first motor and two first parts of the second motor.

4. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 1, wherein the base and the second stage are isolated

from each other.

5. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 4, wherein at least one of the base and the second stage is connected to ground via a reaction frame.

6. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 4, wherein at least one of the base and the stage base is a counter mass.

7. (original) The stage assembly of claim 4, further comprising an actuator connected to the base, the actuator moving the base.

8. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 1, having at least two stages.

9. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein

one of the first part and the second part of the first motor comprises a magnet member and the other part comprises a coil member; and

one of the first part and the second part of the second motor comprises a magnet member and the other part comprises a coil member.

10. (original) The stage assembly of Claim 9, wherein at least one magnet member of the first motor and the second motor is planar and/or at least one coil member of the first motor and the second motor is planar.

11. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the direction of the first force is different from the direction of the second force.

12. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, further comprising a levitation device that supports a part of weight of the stage.

13. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the second stage is movable along the same direction of the first force.

14. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor includes a pair of the motors and produces torque about the z axis that is perpendicular to a guide surface of the base.

15. (original) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor produces a third force, the direction of the third force being perpendicular to a guide surface of the base.

16. (original) The stage assembly of claim 15, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor produces torque about the x and y axes.

17. (original) The stage assembly of claim 15, wherein the stage is movable in six degrees of freedom by the first motor and the second motor.

18. (original) A stage assembly comprising:

- a first motor that includes a first part and a second part, the first motor producing a first force;

- a second motor that includes a first part and a second part, the second motor producing a second force;

- a base to which the first part of the first motor is attached;

- a stage to which is attached the second part of the first motor and the second part of the second motor, the stage moving relative to the base by at least one of the first force and the second force; and

- the first part of the second motor being attached to a second body that is different from

the base.

19. (original) A method for driving a stage, comprising:

driving the stage by (a) a first force produced by a first motor including a first part and a second part that interacts with the first part; and (b) a second force produced by a second motor including a first part and a second part that interacts with the first part of the second motor,

with the first part of the first motor and the first part of the second motor being separate,

wherein the first part of the first motor is attached to a base that supports the stage and the first part of the second motor is attached to a different body from the base.

20. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor includes a pair of the motors and produces torque about the z axis that is perpendicular to a guide surface of the base.

21. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor produces a third force, the direction of the third force being perpendicular to a guide surface of the base.

22. (original) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the first motor and the second motor produces torque about the x and y axes.

23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the stage is movable in six independent degrees of freedom by the first motor and the second motor.

24.-26. (currently canceled)

27. (currently added) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the second stage includes at least one arm that extends in the y direction and includes the first part of the second motor for

applying force in the y direction to the stage.

28. (currently added) The stage assembly of claim 27, wherein:

the first part runs along the length of the at least one arm, and
the at least one arm is supported on the base by bearings.

29. (currently added) The stage assembly of claim 1, further comprising a gap between the stage and the second stage.

30. (currently added) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein:

the second stage carries a portion of a levitation device which extends along the at least one arms in the y direction,

the stage carries another portion of the levitation device, and
the levitation device provides a levitation force to support the stage weight.

31. (currently added) The stage assembly of claim 1, wherein the stage includes underside slots for housing the second part of the first motor and the second part of the second motor.